Probe into landing of Plane at Ahmedabad

*729. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have probed the antecedents of the owners of plane landed for fuel at Ahmedabad Airport on 17th March, 1999;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) An American registered aircraft was cleared by Director General of Civil Aviation for flight Bangkok-Calcutta-Karachi on 16th March, 1999. The operator of the aircraft was Cooper Surveys, a company based in U.K. After take-off from Calcutta the aircraft reported fuel shortage due to strong head winds and requested for landing at Ahmedabad. After landing at Ahmedabad it was detected that some portion of a photographic camera was fitted to the aircraft. The equipment on board was examined by the concerned agencies and found non-operational. Nothing adverse against the two foreigners in the aircraft came to the notice of the Government. Therefore, the aircraft was permitted to take-off after obtaining clearance from the concerned agencies from security angle.

Atrocities against Dalits

†*730. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of atrocities against the downtrodden have increased throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years, State-wise year-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to check these incidents of atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to the National Crime Records Bureau, the incidence of crimes

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.